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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A lithographic printing form precursor comprising:

an anodized aluminum support; and

having an imagable coating on a the aluminum support, wherein the imagable coating comprises a polymeric substance comprising having pendent

colorant groups; and reversible insolubilizer groups selected from

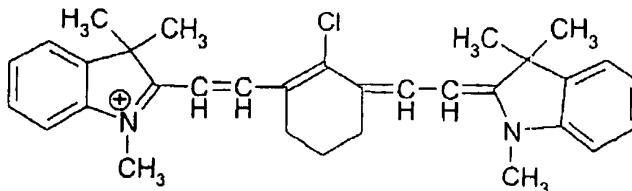
the group consisting of -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-thienyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups;

wherein the aluminum support ~~on which the coating is provided is~~ has been anodized but not subsequently modified by means of a post-anodic treatment compound subjected to a chemical treatment step, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye.

2. (Currently amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric substance is derived from a polymer comprising hydroxyl groups, able to react with a colorant compound or moiety, to produce the polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups.

3. (Previously amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymeric substance is a phenolic resin selected from the group consisting of a novolac resin, a resole resin, a novolac/resole resin mixture and polyhydroxystyrene, and a copolymer of hydroxystyrene.

4. (Currently amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polymeric substance comprises colorant groups colorant compound or moiety is selected from the group consisting of triarylmethene dyes, quaternized heterocyclic compounds, quinolinium compounds, benzothiazolium compounds, pyridinium compounds, polymethine dyes, cyanine dyes, Methylene blue, and a dye having the cation



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5. (Original) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric substance comprises infra-red absorbing groups.
6. (Original) A precursor as claimed in claim 5, wherein the infra-red absorbing groups are also colorant groups.
7. (Previously amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a free infra-red absorbing compound.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are also colorant groups.
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~polymeric substance comprises colorant groups, and which colorant groups~~ also act as infra-red absorbing groups, and ~~which also act as~~ reversible insolubilizer groups.

12. (Previously amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 11, wherein the colorant groups are polymethine dyes or cyanine dyes.
13. (Previously amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a free compound which acts as a reversible insolubilizer compound.
14. (Previously amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 13, wherein the free reversible insolubilizer compound is selected from the group consisting of naphthoflavone, 2,3-diphenyl-1-indeneone, flavone, flavanone, xanthone, benzophenone, N-(4-bromobutyl) phthalimide and phenanthrenequinone.
15. (Previously amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a pigment.

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16. (Original) A precursor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the pigment is carbon black, lamp black, furnace black, channel black, iron (III) oxide, manganese oxide, Milori Blue, Paris Blue, Prussian Blue, Heliogen Green or Nigrosine Base NG1.

17. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a lithographic printing form precursor having an imagable coating on an aluminum support, the method comprising the steps of:

- b5
- a) anodizing an aluminum support; ~~and~~
  - b) without having effected a chemical treatment step after the anodizing step, applying a composition comprising a polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups and reversible insolubilizer groups to the anodized surface of the aluminum-sheet support; and
  - c) drying the composition to form ~~the an~~ imagable coating thereon on the anodized surface, wherein ~~the imagable coating comprises a polymeric substance comprising colorant groups, and reversible insolubilizer groups selected from the group consisting of -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-thienyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye.~~

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A ~~printing form prepared by a method for preparing a printing form~~ comprising the steps of:

- b6
- a) anodizing an aluminum support;
  - b) without having effected a chemical treatment step after the anodizing step, applying a composition comprising a polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups and reversible insolubilizer groups to the anodized surface of the aluminum ~~sheet~~ support; and

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- b6
- c) drying the composition to form an imagable coating ~~thereon on the~~  
anodized surface, wherein ~~the imagable coating comprises a polymeric~~  
~~substance comprising colorant groups, and reversible insolubilizer groups~~  
~~selected from the group consisting of -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-~~  
~~thienyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups,~~  
~~and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye;~~
- d) e) exposing the coating imagewise, and;
- e) d) removing the exposed regions of the coating using a developer liquid.

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23. (Currently amended) A printing form prepared from the lithographic print-printing form precursor of claim 1.

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24. (New) The precursor of claim 1, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are selected from the group consisting of -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-thienyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-naphthyl, -O-CO-Ph, and diazide functional groups.

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25. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of reacting a polymer comprising hydroxyl groups with a colorant compound or moiety, to produce the polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups. → Problem

26. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are selected from the group consisting of -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-thienyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-naphthyl, -O-CO-Ph, and diazide functional groups.

27. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of reacting a polymer comprising hydroxyl groups with a colorant compound or moiety, to produce the polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups. 112

28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are selected from the group consisting of -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-thienyl, -O-SO<sub>2</sub>-naphthyl, -O-CO-Ph, and diazide functional groups.